

Message Text

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10

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 USIA-04 RSR-01

SSO-00 INRE-00 AID-10 /068 W
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R 110550Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5836

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 14521

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: MR 3 SITREP - 10 AUGUST 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON AUG 10 INFO USDAO SAIGON USSAG NKP THAIL
AND
REPEATED FOR YOUR ACTION AND INFO

QUOTE

BIEN HOA 385

1. MR 3 G-2 REPORTS 37 MILITARY CLASHES DURING THE 48 HOUR
PERIOD ENDING 0800 AUGUST 10; 15 CLASHES IN THE FIRST 24 HOUR PERIOD
AND 22 IN THE SECOND. THERE WERE NINE GROUND ATTACKS, 15 ATTACKS
BY FIRE (FIVE OVER 20 ROUNDS CAUSING NINE RVNF WOUNDED), ONE
COMBINED ATTACK BY FIRE AND ON THE GROUND, ONE MECHANICAL AMBUSH,
ONE SAPPER INCIDENT, ONE RAIL INTERDICTION (4KM E XUAN LOC, LONG
KHANH PROVINCE), A GROUND TO AIR FIRING (AT TONLE CHAM ON AUGUST 9,
IN WHICH A VNAF HELICOPTER WAS DAMAGED AND FORCED TO LAND IN THE
OUTER PERIMETER OF THE CAMP WITH EIGHT WOUNDED) AND EIGHT MINING/
GRENADE DETONATIONS (TWO CIVILIAN); NINE INCIDENTS IN BINH DUONG, SEV
EN

IN LONG KHANH, SIX IN BIEN HOA, FOUR IN BINH LONG, THREE IN HAU
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NGHIA, TWO EACH IN TAY NINE, PHUOC LONG AND GIA DINH, AND ONE

EACH IN LONG AN AND BINH TUY. GVN LOSSES FOR THE 48 HOUR PERIOD WERE SIX KILLED, 41 WOUNDED (TWO CIVILIANS), AND SOME EQUIPMENT. KNOWN COMMUNIST LOSSES FOR THE SAME PERIOD WERE FIVE KIA, ONE WOUNDED CIA (BIEN HOA PROVINCE), TWO SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN TAY NINH PROVINCE, AND SOME WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT.

2. PRICE INCREASES THIS WEEK HAVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DISSATISFACTION IN MR 3. FOR EXAMPLE, LONG KHANH PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER REPORTS THAT GVN PROVINCE SERVICE CHIEFS ARE COMPLAINING OPENLY ABOUT THE HIGH COST OF COMMODITIES, ESPECIALLY RICE WHICH WAS UP 6,000\$VN PER 100-KILO BAG DURING THE WEEK. OUT RIGHT THEFTS AND (WHAT IS THE SAME THING WITH AN OFFICIAL COVER) NATIONAL POLICE MOBILE CHECKPOINTS, ARE INCREASING. HOI CHANH CAN NOW BUY ONLY HALF A KILO OF RICE WITH THE 80\$VN DAILY ALLOWANCE THEY RECEIVE AT THE CHIEU HOI CENTER, AND THEY BEG VEGETABLES FROM LOCAL PEOPLES AND NEVER EAT ANY KIND OF MEAT. ON AUGUST 8 A WOMAN OFFERED TO SELL ONE OF HER FOUR CHILDREN TO DEVELOPMENT OFFICER BECAUSE SHE CAN'T AFFORD TO FEED ALL OF THEM ON HER PRESENT SALARY.

3. PROBLEM OF FOLLOWING DEVELOPING MILITARY SITUATION IN PHUOC TUY IS COMPOUNDED BY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ITS COVERAGE IN LOGS OF MR 3 AND PHUOC TUY SECTOR. IN PERIOD JULY 31-AUGUST 7, PHUOC TUY REPORTED 35 INCIDENTS WHILE MR 3 REPORTED 28. ELEVEN INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED BY MR 3 G-2 BUT NOT BY PHUOC TUY, WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND 18 WERE REPORTED BY PHUOC TUY BUT NOT BY MR 3; SO IT APPEARS THERE WERE AT LEAST 46 INCIDENTS DURING THIS PERIOD. MOREOVER, PHUOC TUY REPORTED FOUR RVNAF KIA AND TWO WIA, AND TEN COMMUNIST KIA, NOT REPORTED BY MR 3; WHICH HOWEVER REPORTED THREE WIA (ONE CIVILIAN) AND ONE CAPTURED NOT REPORTED BY PHUOC TUY. PHUOC TUY REPORTED 22 AIR SORTIES (INCLUDING 16 ON AUGUST 8) NOT COVERED BY MR 3, WHICH REPORTED ANOTHER SIX SORTIES AUGUST 4 WHICH PHUOC TUY PROVINCE DID NOT REPORT,. SIGNED WALKINSHAW
UNQUOTE MARTIN

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